

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2176

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 2806

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECRP

SUBJ: RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES CERP 0002

REF: FREETOWN A-085, NOV. 5, 1974

PART I.

1. SIERRA LEONE'S RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST WORLD HAVE CONTINUED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL DURING THE PAST YEAR, WITH CHINA REMAINING THE MOST CONSPICUOUS DONOR AMONG THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT STEVENS' LONG ANTICIPATED VISIT TO THE USSR DID NOT MATERIALIZE DURING THE YEAR DUE TO CONTINUING FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY TIMING. POLITICAL TIES WITH ROMANIA WERE STRENGTHENED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT IN OCT 75 THAT ROMANIA WILL OPEN A PERMANENT MISSION IN FREETOWN SOON. ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR NOW RESIDENT IN CONAKRY. NORTH KOREA, WHILE UPGRADING ITS REPRESENTATION TO A RESIDENT AMBASSADORSHIP, NONETHELESS SUFFERED A SET-BACK WHEN IT WAS UNABLE TO BLOCK ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY WITH A RESIDENT ROK AMBASSADOR.

POLITICAL/ECON RELATIONSHIPS. NO NEW COMMUNIST BLOC ASSISTANCE PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANCE WERE ANNOUNCED OR ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN SIGNED DURING THE YEAR. THE CHINESE CONTINUED TO BE ACTIVE ON SEVERAL OF THE PROJECTS OUTLINED IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT (REFAIRGRAM),
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NOTABLY THE SPORTS STADIUM ON WHICH CONSTRUCTION IS

WELL UNDER WAY, THE MANGE BUREH BRIDGE, AND THE 13 AGRICULTURAL STATIONS PROMOTING PRODUCTION OF RICE AND VEGETABLES. NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RECORDED ON OTHER PROJECTS LISTED IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT. THE NORTH KOREANS ARE ENGAGED IN BUILDING A NEW TOWN HALL FOR FREETOWN. EARLY IN NOVEMBER AN AIR TRAFFIC AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN HUNGARY AND SIERRA LEONE, NO SERVICE ANNOUNCED YET.

2. MILITARY ASSISTANCE. ONLY ONE NEW MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNIST STATES OR DELIERIES OF COMMUNIST-FINANCED EQUIPMENT HAS COME TO ATTENTION OF EMBASSY IN PAST YEAR. SIERRA LEONE IS REPORTED TO BE ABOUT TO RECEIVE ABOUT THREE 15 MAN HELICOPTERS FROM THE PRC BEFORE THE END OF CY 75; THE PRC HAS BEEN TRAIN-ING SIERRA LEONIANS TO PILOT THESE HELICOPTERS.

PART II LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP. THERE IS NO FORMAL COMMUNIST PARTY IN SIERRA LEONE.

PART III DIPLOMATIC, CONSULAR AND TRADE MISSION RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES:

ALBANIA ---

BULGARIA NRA

CPR E

CUBA E

CZECHOSLAVAKIA NRA

EAST GERMANY NRA

HUNGARY NRA

MONGOLIA ---

N. KOREA E
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N. VIETNAM ---

POLAND NRA

ROMANIA NRA (E IN NEAR FUTURE)

USSR E

KEY: E - EMBASSY

NRA - NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR

ALL NRA ARE RESIDENT IN CONAKRY, GUINEA.

PART IV A. CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES.

SOVIET UNION - THE USSR MAINTAINS AN ACTIVE PROGRAM OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES INCLUDING INVITATIONAL VISITS FOR SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS. ABOUT 325 STUDENTS CURRENTLY STUDYING IN USSR.

PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA - ACTIVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH CHINESE EXPERT TEAMS VISITING SIERRA LEONE AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL VISITING CHINA. THIS YEAR A SEVEN MAN DELEGATION, LED BY MINISTER OF INFORMATION VISITED CHINA FOR 21 DAYS ON ALL-EXPENSE PAID TOUR.

NORTH KOREA- DELEGATION LED BY MINISTER OF INFORMATION ALSO VISITED DPRK. A GOOD WILL DELEGATION FROM NORTH KOREA VISITED FOR 5 DAYS IN JULY.

CUBA - A SMALL EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN EARE OF YOUTH. 20 SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE BEEN AWARDED FOR STUDY IN CUBA.

PART IV B. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN EXCHANGES.

SOVIET UNION - SOVIET TECHNICIANS PRODUCED A DOCUMENTARY FILM ON SIERRA LEONE ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL. TASS BUREAU WITH RESIDENT CORRESPONDENT ALSO COVERS LIBERIA. ACTIVE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY.
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PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA - REPRESENTATIVE OF HSINHUA NEWS AGENCY RESIDENT IN FREETOWN. ACTIVE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY.

NORTH KOREA - LARGE ARTICLES ON KIM IL SUNG APPEAR FREQUENTLY IN LOCAL PAPERS. ACTIVE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY.

EAST GERMANY - AN ACTIVE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY.

CUBA - 18-MAN BOXING TEAM VISITED SIERRA LEONE THIS YEAR. ACTIVE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY.

IN ADDITION, BULGARIA, CZECH, HUNGARY, POLAND, ROMANIA

HAVE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES IN SIERRA LEONE. PROMINENT
LEADERS AND POLITICAL LEADERS INCLUDED IN MEMBERSHIP
OF SOCIETIES.
SAMUELS

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